

# Lake Talquin PATON Study

## Executive Summary

PBS&J was contracted by Parks and Recreation of Leon County (POO 30196) to examine the costs and feasibility of installation of channel markers on Lake Talquin. The goal of this project was to develop deployment schemes, costs, and permitting criteria for five selected options. The assessment was based on information from available maps, aerial photos and from information obtained from local boaters. Risk assessment, liability, or coordination with Gadsden County were specifically excluded, however, should be considered prior to implementation of any of these concepts.

After discussions with Leon County, the five general options identified for study were:

1. No action.
2. Mark out the entire channel of the Ochlockonee river bed.
3. Mark safe passage locations.
4. Selected markers.
5. A detailed navigation chart for boaters.

Based on equipment costs, using buoys as the aids to navigation is more economical than using daymarks. However, daymarks are easier to see and are less likely to be moved. The most expensive option therefore, is the combination of daymarks and buoys proposed in the third layout. The cost estimate for the second option is the second highest since it includes the highest number of markings.

The cost estimates include equipment costs and installation. We have also included an estimate to be considered for maintenance of the markings. The cost associated with a survey is shown separately and includes field work and data reduction. Option 5 includes field work, data reduction and drafting of a final map.

If the County decides that markers are preferred we recommend options 3 or 4. The geometry of the channel relative to the travelable areas of the lake seem to suggest that the marking of the channel itself holds little purpose.

Permission for installation of navigation aids, must be sought from three agencies: U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Office of Boating Safety and Waterway Management. The appendix of this report contains agency contact information and forms required for the permit application process.

